

effect in a foreign country which is different and unintended under U.S. practice (i.e., changing “consisting of” to “comprising”); (v) to remove or amend original claim language that could be regarded as alternative expressions that are acceptable under foreign patent practice but possibly subject to objection under U.S. practice, typically having a broadening or neutral effect in the amended claim; and/or (vi) to improve the clarity or meaning of the original language.

In the case of amendments effectively changing an original claim element expressed as a “means plus function” that could raise a presumption of claim expression under 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph to a structural expression or to an expression removing the presumption of a “means-plus-function” statement, it is not intended to narrow the claim so amended for purposes of patentability, but rather to place the claim in a form considered to be intended by the applicant from a foreign country where claim limitations described in terms of means-plus-function do not have the same effect as under U.S. practice. Thus, such amendments are intended to establish a full range of equivalents to the claim elements so amended under the U.S. doctrine of equivalents and beyond the range associated with “means-plus-function” expressions according to 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph, just as if the claim so amended was presented originally in its amended form.

All rights are reserved to the original disclosed and claimed subject matter and any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A value document, comprising ~~in particular bank note,~~ having a value document substrate and at least three different feature substances for checking the value document, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the value document has a first feature substance, and second and third feature substances are provided on ~~applied to~~ the value document substrate in a printing ink jointly, the second feature substance comprising ~~being formed by~~ a luminescent substance and the third feature substance comprising by a material absorbent in a selected ~~special~~ spectral range.

2. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the substrate of the value document.

3. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first feature substance is distributed substantially uniformly within the volume of the value document substrate.

4. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that the third feature substance absorbs in the infrared spectral range.

5. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the third feature substance is substantially colorless or has only weak inherent color in the visible spectral range.

6. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 4, wherein ~~or 5,~~ characterized in that the third feature substance absorbs significantly in the spectral range above about 1.2 μm , ~~preferably in the spectral range from about 1.5 μm to 2.2 μm .~~

7. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 4, wherein at ~~least one of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that~~ the third feature substance has no significant absorption at a wavelength of about 0.8 μm .

8. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at ~~least one of claims 4 to 7, characterized in that~~ the third feature substance comprises a doped semiconductor material or a metal oxide.

9. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 4, wherein at ~~least one of claims 4 to 8, characterized in that~~ the third feature substance is present in the printing ink in particle form with an average particle size smaller than 50 nm.

10. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at ~~least one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the value document has a fourth feature substance different from the first feature substance, which is preferably incorporated into the volume of the substrate of the value document.

11. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the fourth feature substance is distributed substantially uniformly within the volume of the value document substrate.

12. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 10, wherein at ~~least one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ the first and/or fourth feature substance is formed either or both by a luminescent substance ~~[[or]]~~ and a mixture of luminescent substances.

13. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at ~~least one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that~~ at least one of the feature substances is formed on the basis of a host lattice doped with rare earth elements.

14. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 4, wherein at ~~least one of the claims 4 to 13, characterized in that~~ the first and/or fourth feature substance is formed by a luminescent substance which emits in the absorption range of the third feature substance.

15. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at ~~least one of the claims 1 to 14, characterized in that~~ the first and/or fourth feature substance is printed on the value document substrate.

16. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at ~~least one of the claims 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ the first and/or fourth feature substance is applied to or incorporated in the value document substrate in the form of a coding.

17. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at ~~least one of the claims 1 to 16, characterized in that~~ the second and third feature substances are printed on the value document substrate in the form of a coding.

18. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 16, wherein or ~~17, characterized in that~~ at least one coding extends over a predominant part of a surface of the value document, ~~in particular over the substantially total surface of the value document.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 16, wherein at ~~least one of claims 16 to 18, characterized in that~~ at least one coding is a bar code.

20. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 16, wherein at ~~least one of claims 16 to 18, characterized in that~~ at least one coding represents information about the value document, ~~the information preferably being present in encrypted form.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 20, characterized in that the value document substrate comprises one or both of a printed or unprinted cotton paper ~~[[or]]~~ and a paper consisting of a cotton/synthetic fiber mixture.

22. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 21, characterized in that the value document substrate comprises a printed or unprinted plastic film.

23. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 22, characterized in that the value document has a further printed layer which partly or completely covers the value document areas provided with the second and third feature substances.

24. (Currently Amended) The value document according to claim 23, wherein characterized in that the further printed layer is opaque in the visible spectral range and is transparent or translucent in the emission range of at least one of the second feature substance and ~~and/or~~ in the absorption range of the third feature substance.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a value document according to claim 1, comprising applying any of claims 1 to 24, characterized in that the second and third feature substances ~~are applied~~ to the value document substrate in a printing ink jointly.

26. (Currently Amended) The production method according to claim 25, wherein at least one of ~~characterized in that~~ the first and ~~and/or~~ fourth feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the substrate of the value document.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for checking or processing a value document according to claim 1, comprising: checking any of claims 1 to 24, wherein the authenticity of the value document is checked and carrying out a value recognition of

the document ~~carried out~~ by using at least one characteristic property of at least one of the first and ~~and/or~~ second feature substance for checking the authenticity of the value document, and the absorption of the third feature substance for the value recognition of the value document.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, including using ~~characterized in that~~ at least one characteristic property of the first feature substance ~~is used~~ for checking the authenticity of the value document, and the absorption of the third feature substance for the value recognition of the value document, by a user of a first user group.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~27 or~~ 28, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one characteristic property of the second feature substance is used for checking the authenticity of the value document, and the absorption of the third feature substance for the value recognition of the value document, by a user of a second user group.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one characteristic property of the first and/or fourth feature substance is used for checking the authenticity of the value document.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein, at least one of claims 27 to 30, characterized in that for value recognition, at least a partial area of the value document is irradiated with radiation from the absorption range of the third feature substance, the absorption of the third feature substance is determined in the partial area at a wavelength from the irradiation range, and the value recognition is carried out on the basis of the determined absorption.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein ~~in that~~ the irradiation is effected in the infrared spectral range.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein ~~or 32,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the determination of the absorption is performed in spatially
resolved fashion.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein, ~~at least~~
~~one of claims 27 to 30, characterized in that~~ for value recognition, at least a partial
area of the value document is irradiated with radiation from the excitation range of
the luminescent first and/or fourth feature substance, the emission of the first and/or
fourth feature substance is determined at a wavelength from the absorption range of
the third feature substance, and the value recognition is carried out on the basis of
the determined emission.

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34, wherein ~~characterized~~
~~in that~~ the irradiation is effected in the infrared spectral range.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34, wherein ~~or 35,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the determination of the emission is performed in spatially
resolved fashion.

37. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34, wherein ~~at least one~~
~~of claims 34 to 36, characterized in that~~ the emission of at least one of the first and
~~and/or~~ fourth feature substance is determined on opposite sides of the value
document, ~~the value recognition being preferably performed on the basis of a~~
~~comparison of the emission determined on opposite sides.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein ~~at least one~~
~~of claims 27 to 37, characterized in that,~~ for the authenticity check by a user of the
second user group, the second feature substance is irradiated with radiation from its
excitation range, the emission is determined at at least one wavelength from the
emission range of the second feature substance, and the check of authenticity is
carried out on the basis of the determined emission.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the second feature substance is irradiated with at least one of visible and ~~and/or~~ infrared radiation, and its emission is determined in the infrared spectral range.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein ~~at least one of claims 31 to 39, characterized in that~~ the irradiation is performed with a light-emitting diode or laser diode.

41. (New) The value document according to claim 6, wherein the spectral range is from about 1.5 μm to 2.2 μm .

42. (New) The value document according to claim 20, wherein the information is in encrypted form.

43. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the value recognition is performed on the basis of a comparison of the emission determined on opposite sides.